

# TSAC Update

Helping Students Achieve Their Goals Since 1974

October 2007 Vol. 16

## TSAC Board Submits 2008-09 Budget Request

**T**he Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Board of Directors has submitted its 2008-09 budget request to the State of Tennessee.

### TSAC 2008-09 BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY

PRIORITY	AMOUNT	SOURCE	INITIATIVE
1	\$10,000,000	Lottery	Recurring TSAA Support from Lottery
2	\$3,770,000	State	Support TSAA Applicants who Apply by April 1
3	\$299,000	State	Maintain Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program
4	\$198,200	State	Expand Ned McWherter Scholars Program
5	\$12,915,000	State	Support TSAA Applicants who Apply by May 1
6	\$205,600	Federal	Loan Program Business Development
7	\$1,400,000	State	Graduate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program

The seven initiatives are summarized here, and full details are provided on TSAC's Web site at [www.state.tn.us/tsac/about\\_us.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/tsac/about_us.htm). The request will next be reviewed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the Governor's Office, and the General Assembly.

Three of the initiatives, and the lion's share of new funds, focus on the need-based TSAA program. **Initiative 1** would make permanent the \$10 million of one-time support received from the lottery in 2007-08. This initiative is absolutely essential to prevent nearly 5,000 students from losing their awards in 2008-09. **Initiative 2** would extend the projected application cutoff date from March 24 (in 2007-08) to April 1 (in 2008-09). **Initiative 5** would go a step further, and extend the projected 2008-09 application cutoff date all the way to May 1.

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## A Message from the Director's Corner

I don't know about you, but I'm pretty sure I speak for most TSAC staff when I tell you I am ready for life to slow down a little. The last month or so has been absolutely crazy, as we've conducted a board meeting, submitted our 2008-09 budget request, proposed rule changes, contracted to sell rehabilitated loans, conducted new aid officer training, attended a zillion ACT workshops and college fairs, published our brochure, and hired a number of new staff. I'll bet you have had a similar hectic schedule.

Fortunately, a chance to unwind is coming up! You'll see many of us at the TASFAA Fall Conference, October 21-23, in Franklin, Tennessee. While we will be there to work (and will conduct several sessions) there is no denying that it will be great to get away from the day-to-day office routine for awhile and spend some quality time with our financial aid colleagues from across the state. I hope you will be there. (I have an out-of-state NASSGAP commitment and won't be able to attend, but I'd sure be there if I could!)

*Bob Ruble*

## TSAC Honors Retiring Board Member

The Board also honored retiring member Paul Starnes, former President of Proprietary Business School Association, Inc., for his contributions to TSAC and higher education. Board member Faye Weaver read a resolution highlighting his lifetime achievements and thanking him for his service to the agency, which was unanimously adopted by board members.



Dr. Lori May, President of Remington College's Memphis campus, has taken the place of Mr. Starnes as President of the Tennessee Proprietary Business Schools Association, Inc., and has taken his place on the TSAC board.

## TSAC Board Submits 2008~09 Budget Request (Continued)

**Initiative 3** would improve the Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program by increasing the award amount from \$4,500 to \$5,000, and by increasing the number of awards from 168 to 211.

**Initiative 4** would add 66 students to the number of Ned McWherter Scholars. This program is designed to keep Tennessee's best and brightest students within the State. Entering freshmen must have a 3.5 high school GPA and a 29 ACT to even apply, and of these, existing funds can support only one in five applicants.

**Initiative 6** would support two Business Development Consultant positions to assist TSAC's loan division in developing a better understanding of what schools need, designing processes that will meet those needs, and assisting with implementations.

**Initiative 7** would provide state support for the new Grad-uate Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program. This program was begun with private support, and with the expectation that the State would provide funding for continued operation.

# TSAC Board of Directors Approves Changes to Various TSAC Rules

**T**he TSAC Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the proposed rule changes to the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Program, the Minority Teaching Fellows Program (MTFP), and the Tennessee Teaching Scholars Program (TTSP) at last week's board meeting.

proposed by the TSAC staff were made to eliminate reference to specific award amounts in the rules, thus eliminating the need to change the rules each time these amounts are changed by legislation, and to eliminate duplication between the rules and the statutes.

Members of the TASFAA Advisory Committee to



However, the Attorney General's Office must approve the proposed rule changes and the proposed rules must be filed with the Secretary of State before they become effective.

Several changes to the TELS rules were necessitated by legislation passed during the 2007 session of the 105th General Assembly increasing certain TELS award amounts. Other changes

TSAC reviewed the proposed rule changes. Copies of the proposed (not yet final) rules, with changes highlighted, are available at [www.CollegePaysTN.com](http://www.CollegePaysTN.com) by clicking on the ABOUT TSAC link, then the Board of Directors Meeting Agendas link. The September 27, 2007 Agenda provides specific information.



# Meet TSAC Veteran Priscilla Dupree

**A**dministrative assistant Priscilla Dupree has been with the agency for 25 years, but you wouldn't know it by looking at her. You also wouldn't guess that this Birmingham, Ala. native is a grandmother to four. "They are my heart and soul," said Priscilla, who keeps that youthful glow by keeping up with them. She also says helping students with financial aid is a joy.

In her spare time, Priscilla enjoys reading and collecting cookbooks, and traveling to see her grandchildren, of course.



## *Comments from Priscilla:*

*"Over the years here at TSAC--it has been a pleasure. I really enjoy my work and learning more. I remember the early days without computers when everything was done by hand here at TSAC and we all worked together to get the work done. We were a family then and we are now."*

## Two Financial Aid Specialists Come Aboard

TSAC is pleased to welcome two new Information Specialists to the Communication Services team. Ashley Tyler comes from the financial aid office at Middle

Tennessee State University where she served as a liaison between students and financial aid counselors. A native Tennessean from Paris, Ashley is an

August 2007 graduate of MTSU with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She was also a Hope Lottery Scholarship recipient!



Ashley Tyler



Alicia Pickett

Alicia Pickett is a graduate of MTSU's Honors College where she received a degree in psychology. Her thesis was about international educational practices and she has journeyed to Rio, Brazil to investigate their educational system. While completing her degree she was a general interest reporter for the college paper *Sidelines* for four years. Alicia has also served as grant reviewer for the Abstinence Education Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. Welcome aboard, Ashley and Alicia!

# TSAC Welcomes New Internal Auditor

**O**n Oct. 1, 2007 TSAC welcomed Sophia Massey, the agency's new Internal Auditor.

Sophia joins us from Memphis, where she had served as internal auditor at AutoZone, Inc. She replaces Mason Ball, who was promoted to Associate Executive Director of Business Affairs.

"I'm happy to be here and to help the agency maintain compliance with all laws and regulations so that it can operate smoothly and continue to provide financial aid options to Tennesseans," said Sophia.

Her duties will include performing financial, compliance, operational and program audits of TSAC and any entities such as vendors that have contractual obligations to the agency. Some of you may have met her at the Sept. 27 board meeting, which she attended prior to her start date. We appreciate her commitment and initiative.

Sophia received her accounting degree at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis. She is no stranger to the state, having worked for the Comptroller of the Treasury and the



Department of Transportation as an auditor.

Her hobbies include listening to a variety of music, including soul, jazz, symphony orchestra and Christian. She also likes to watch movies and among her favorites are *Remember the Titans*, *The Patriot*, and *Crash*. Family is very important to Sophia, who says her family just celebrated an addition with the union of her brother and his new wife, who live in Nashville.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- ▶ 10/21/07 - 10/23/07  
TASFAA Fall Conference  
Franklin, TN
- ▶ 02/17/08 - 02/20/08  
SASFAA Conference  
Arlington, VA
- ▶ 03/20/07  
TSAC Board of Directors Meeting  
Nashville, TN

## TSAC Board Calendar

In order to avoid calendar conflicts experienced by several TSAC board members, future board meetings will be held on the THIRD Thursday of March and September. Accordingly, TSAC's next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on March 20, 2008. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

### TSAC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation has several employment opportunities currently available.

#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- ▶ Associate Executive Director for Communication Services
- ▶ Student Information Systems Analyst

Please visit our website ([http:// www.state.tn.us/tsac/employment.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/tsac/employment.htm)) to learn more.